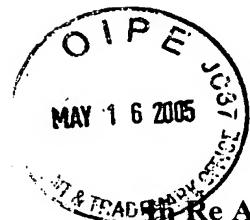


DOCKET NO.: SPOF-0002

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

Michael P. Muller

Application No.: 10/522,425

Filing Date: January 25, 2005

For: VENT VALVE

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

DATE OF DEPOSIT: May 13, 2005

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Wendy A. Choi

TYPED NAME: Wendy A. Choi
REGISTRATION NO.: 36,697

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

In accordance with § 1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of

the above identified application as set forth in § 1.491, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of request for continued examination under § 1.114, no additional fee is required.

- In accordance with § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in § 1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under § 1.116 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, or before an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, therefore:
 - Certification in Accordance with § 1.97(e) is attached; or
 - The fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p) is attached.
- In accordance with § 1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311 but before, or simultaneously with, the payment of the Issue Fee, therefore included are: Certification in Accordance with § 1.97(e); and the submission fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p).
- Copies of reference numbers **7 thru 12** listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.
- Copies of reference numbers **1 thru 6** on the attached Form PTO 1449 are not required to be submitted pursuant to the waiver of 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2)(i).
- Copies of references - are not being submitted because they were previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in patent application number , filed for which a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 has been made in the instant application.

Enclosed is a copy of the PCT International Search Report dated **April 2, 2003**, which indicates the reference(s) to be relevant.

English language abstracts have been provided for reference(s) **10 and 12**, which are not in the English language..

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3050. This form is submitted in duplicate.

Date: May 13, 2005


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| Form PTO-1449 Modified | | Docket No. SPOF-0002 | Application No. 10/522,425 |
| List of Patent and Publications Cited by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) | | Applicant Michael P. Muller | |
| U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | | Filing Date January 25, 2005 | Group Not Yet Assigned |

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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